

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY PROTOCOL PRECEDENCE LIST as of 8 April 2003

VIP 1 Code:

- 1 PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES
- 2 HEADS OF STATE/REIGNING ROYALTY

VIP 2 (FOUR-STAR EQUIVALENT) Code:

- 3 VICE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES
- 4 GOVERNORS IN OWN STATE (SEE #43)
- 5 SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
- 6 CHIEF JUSTICE OF THE SUPREME COURT
- 7 FORMER PRESIDENTS OF THE UNITED STATES
- 8 U.S. AMBASSADORS, WHEN AT POST
- 9 SECRETARY OF STATE
- 10 PRESIDENT, UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY (IN SESSION)
- 11 SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE UNITED NATIONS
- 12 PRESIDENT, UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY (NOT IN SESSION)
- 13 ACCREDITED AMBASSADORS OF FOREIGN POWERS
- 14 WIDOWS OF FORMER PRESIDENTS
- 15 ACCREDITED FOREIGN MINISTERS AND ENVOYS
- 16 ASSOCIATE JUSTICES OF THE SUPREME COURT
- 17 RETIRED CHIEF JUSTICES OF THE SUPREME COURT
- 18 RETIRED ASSOCIATE JUSTICES OF THE SUPREME COURT
- 19 SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY
- 20 SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
- 21 THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
- 22 SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR
- 23 SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE
- 24 SECRETARY OF COMMERCE
- 25 SECRETARY OF LABOR
- 26 SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
- 27 SECRETARY OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT
- 28 SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION
- 29 SECRETARY OF ENERGY
- 30 SECRETARY OF EDUCATION
- 31 SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
- 32 SECRETARY OF HOMELAND SECURITY
- 33 ADMINISTRATOR, ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
- 34 CHIEF OF STAFF TO THE PRESIDENT
- 35 DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET
- 36 U.S. TRADE REPRESENTATIVE
- 37 DIRECTOR, NATIONAL DRUG CONTROL POLICY
- 38 OFFICE OF HOMELAND SECURITY
- 39 U.S. REPRESENTATIVE TO THE UNITED NATIONS (IN SESSION) (SEE #59)
- 40 CHAIRMAN, COUNCIL OF ECONOMIC ADVISORS
- 41 PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE OF THE SENATE
- 42 UNITED STATES SENATORS (BY SENIORITY; WHEN EQUAL, BY ALPHA)
- 43 FORMER UNITED STATES SENATORS (BY DATE OF RETIREMENT)
- 44 GOVERNORS WHEN NOT IN OWN STATE (BY STATE DATE OF ENTRY; WHEN EQUAL, BY ALPHA) (SEE #4)
- 45 ACTING HEADS OF CABINET LEVEL DEPARTMENTS
- 46 FORMER VICE PRESIDENTS OF THE UNITED STATES
- 47 UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES (BY SENIORITY; WHEN EQUAL, BY ALPHA)
- 48 FORMER CONGRESSMEN (BY DATE OF RETIREMENT)

Department of the Army Protocol Precedence List (as of 8 April 2003)

- 49 DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA DELEGATE TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
- 50 GUAM DELEGATE TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
- 51 U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS DELEGATE TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
- 52 AMERICAN SAMOA DELEGATE TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
- 53 RESIDENT COMMISSIONER FROM Puerto Rico
- 54 DEPUTY SECRETARIES AND UNDER SECRETARIES (WHEN DEPUTY SECRETARY EQUIVALENT) OF THE EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENTS (NUMBER-TWO POSITION)
- 55 ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT FOR NATIONAL SECURITY AFFAIRS
- 56 ASSISTANTS AND COUNSEL TO THE PRESIDENT
- 57 CHARGES D'AFFAIRES OF FOREIGN POWERS
- 58 FORMER SECRETARIES OF STATE
- 59 FORMER MEMBERS OF THE PRESIDENT'S CABINET
- 60 U.S. REPRESENTATIVE TO THE UNITED NATIONS (NOT IN SESSION) (SEE #38)
- 61 DIRECTOR, CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
- 62 SOLICITOR GENERAL
- 63 ADMINISTRATOR, AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT
- 64 DIRECTOR, ARMS CONTROL AND DISARMAMENT AGENCY
- 65 DIRECTOR, U.S. INFORMATION AGENCY
- 66 UNDERSECRETARIES OF STATE AND COUNSELS
- 67 UNDERSECRETARIES OF THE EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENTS (NUMBER-THREE POSITION)
- 68 U.S. AMBASSADORS AT LARGE
- 69 UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE FOR ACQUISITION (FOR ACQUISITION MATTERS ONLY) (SEE #77)
- 70 SECRETARY OF THE ARMY, NAVY, AIR FORCE
- 71 POSTMASTER GENERAL
- 72 CHAIRMAN, FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM
- 73 CHAIRMAN, AMERICAN BATTLE MONUMENTS COMMISSION
- 74 CHAIRMAN, COUNCIL ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
- 75 FORMER SECRETARIES OF THE SERVICES
- 76 CHAIRMAN, JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF
- 77 UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE FOR ACQUISITION AND TECHNOLOGY (SEE #69), FOR POLICY, DOD COMPTROLLER/CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER, FOR PERSONNEL AND READINESS, FOR INTELLIGENCE
- 78 RETIRED CHAIRMEN OF THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF
- 79 VICE CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF
- 80 RETIRED VICE CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF
- 81 CHIEFS OF SERVICES AND COMMANDANT OF THE U. S. COAST GUARD (SEE NOTE 1)
- 82 RETIRED CHIEFS OF SERVICES (4 STAR RANK) (SEE NOTE 1)
- 83 COMBATANT COMMANDERS (SEE NOTE 2)
- 84 RETIRED COMBATANT COMMANDERS (SEE NOTE 2)
- 85 DIRECTOR, WHITE HOUSE MILITARY OFFICE
- 86 GENERALS OF THE ARMY, FLEET ADMIRALS, GENERALS OF THE AIR FORCE
- 87 LIEUTENANT GOVERNORS AND ACTING GOVERNORS
- 88 FOREIGN NON-ACCREDITED PERSONS OF AMBASSADOR RANK
- 89 SECRETARY GENERAL, ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES
- 90 CHAIRMAN, PERMANENT COUNCIL OF THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES
- 91 HEADS OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS (NATO, SEATO, etc.)
- 92 ADMINISTRATOR, GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION
- 93 ADMINISTRATOR, NASA
- 94 ADMINISTRATOR, NATIONAL OCEANOGRAPHIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION
- 95 CHAIRMAN, MERIT SYSTEMS PROTECTION BOARD
- 96 DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT
- 97 ADMINISTRATOR, FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION
- 98 CHAIRMAN, FEDERAL MARITIME COMMISSION
- 99 CHAIRMAN, NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

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- 100 DIRECTOR OF ACTION
- 101 DIRECTOR OF THE PEACE CORPS
- 102 U.S. AMBASSADORS ON OFFICIAL VISITS IN D.C.
- 103 CHIEF OF PROTOCOL, DEPARTMENT OF STATE
- 104 U.S. AMBASSADORS ON OFFICIAL VISITS IN THE U.S. OUTSIDE THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
- 105 STATE SECRETARY OF STATE (IN OWN STATE)

VIP 3 (FOUR-STAR EQUIVALENT) Code:

- 106 JUDGES, U.S. COURT OF APPEALS, FEDERAL DISTRICT
- 107 JUDGES, U.S. COURT OF APPEALS FOR VETERANS AFFAIRS
- 108 JUDGES, U.S. COURT OF APPEALS, D.C. DISTRICT
- 109 CARDINALS
- 110 GOVERNOR OF GUAM
- 111 GOVERNOR OF U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS
- 112 CHIEF/ASSOCIATE JUDGES OF A STATE SUPREME COURT
- 113 MAYORS OF MAJOR CITIES (IN OWN CITY) (SEE #179) (CITIES WITH A POPULATION OF ONE MILLION OR MORE)
- 114 MAYOR OF DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
- 115 DEPUTY DIRECTOR, CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
- 116 DEPUTY ADMINISTRATOR, AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT
- 117 DEPUTY DIRECTOR, U.S. ARMS CONTROL AND DISARMAMENT AGENCY
- 118 DEPUTY DIRECTOR, U.S. INFORMATION AGENCY
- 119 DEPUTY ADMINISTRATOR, GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION
- 120 DEPUTY ADMINISTRATOR, NASA
- 121 DEPUTY DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT
- 122 DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF ACTION
- 123 DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF THE PEACE CORPS
- 124 DIRECTOR, FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
- 125 DEPUTY ASSISTANTS TO THE PRESIDENT
- 126 U.S. CHARGE D'AFFAIRES
- 127 ATTORNEY GENERAL OF A STATE
- 128 PRINCIPAL DEPUTY UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE FOR ACQUISITION, TECHNOLOGY AND LOGISTICS/UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE FOR ACQUISITION AND TECHNOLOGY
- 129 DEPUTY UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE FOR LOGISTICS AND MATERIEL READINESS
- 130 PRINCIPAL DEPUTY UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE FOR POLICY
- 131 PRINCIPLE DEPUTY UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE FOR PERSONNEL AND READINESS
- 132 DIRECTOR, DEFENSE RESEARCH AND ENGINEERING
- 133 ASSISTANT SECRETARIES OF THE EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENTS, GENERAL COUNSEL, INSPECTOR GENERAL, (SEE NOTE 1); DIRECTOR, DOD OPERATIONAL TESTING AND EVALUATION
- 134 ASSISTANT SECRETARY GENERAL, ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES
- 135 ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR, AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT
- 136 COMPTROLLER GENERAL OF THE U.S.
- 137 JUDGES, UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS FOR THE ARMED FORCES
- 138 MEMBERS, COUNCIL OF ECONOMIC ADVISORS
- 139 ACTIVE OR DESIGNATE U.S. AMBASSADORS
- 140 ARCHBISHOPS
- 141 UNDER SECRETARIES OF THE ARMY, NAVY, AND AIR FORCE
- 142 MINISTERS OF CAREER RANK WHEN IN THE U.S.
- 143 PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES TO THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES
- 144 VICE CHIEFS OF SERVICES, VICE COMMANDANT OF THE COAST GUARD (SEE NOTE 1)
- 145 FORMER VICE CHIEFS OF SERVICES (BY DATE OF RETIREMENT)
- 146 ASSISTANT SECRETARIES OF THE SERVICES (BY DATE OF APPOINTMENT) AND SERVICE GENERAL COUNSELS (SEE NOTE 6)
- 147 GENERALS AND ADMIRALS (4-STAR RANK)
- 148 ASSISTANT TO THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE FOR NUCLEAR, CHEMICAL AND BIOLOGICAL DEFENSE PROGRAMS

- 149 RETIRED GENERAL AND ADMIRALS (4-STAR RANK)
- 150 DIRECTOR, SELECTIVE SERVICE SYSTEM
- 151 CHIEF OF STAFF SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
- 152 ASSISTANT CHIEF OF STAFF SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
- 153 THE SPECIAL ASST TO THE SEC/DEPSEC OF DEFENSE
- 154 ASSISTANTS TO THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE (SEE NOTE 3)
- 155 THE EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT TO THE SECDEF
- 156 THE EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT TO THE DEPSECDEF
- 157 DIRECTOR, OSD ADMINISTRATION AND MANAGEMENT
- 158 DIRECTOR, OSD PROGRAM ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION
- 159 DIRECTOR OF NET ASSESSMENT
- 160 DIRECTOR, FORCE TRANSFORMATION
- 161 PRINCIPLE DEPUTY UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE FOR COMPTROLLER/DEPUTY UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE FOR MANAGEMENT REFORM
- 162 PRINCIPLE DEPUTY UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE FOR INTELLIGENCE
- 163 DEFENSE ADVISOR U.S. MISSION NATO, SECRETARY OF DEFENSE REPRESENTATIVE TO EUROPE
- 164 CHAIRMAN OF THE DEFENSE POLICY ADVISORY COMMITTEE, DEFENSE SCIENCE BOARD AND THE RESERVE FORCES POLICY BOARD (SEE NOTE 3)

VIP 4 (THREE-STAR EQUIVALENT) CODE:

- 165 DIRECTORS OF DEFENSE AGENCIES (DLA, DMA, NSA, DCA; DARPA; OTHER DOD AGENCIES) (SEE NOTE 4)
- 166 DEPUTY UNDER SECRETARIES OF DEFENSE (NON-STATUTORY) (SEE NOTE 3); DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF DEFENSE, R&E; PRINCIPAL DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARIES OF DEFENSE; PRINCIPAL DEPUTY GENERAL COUNSEL (DOD); DEPUTY INSPECTOR GENERAL (DOD); DIRECTOR OF DEFENSE PROCUREMENT; DIRECTOR, SMALL AND DISADVANTAGED BUSINESS
- 167 ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANTS OF THE ARMY, NAVY, AIR FORCE; DIRECTOR OF THE ARMY STAFF; SERVICE SENIOR ENLISTED ADVISORS (SEE NOTE 5)
- 168 FORMER SERVICE SENIOR ENLISTED ADVISORS (SEE NOTE 5)
- 169 TREASURER, COMPTROLLER OR AUDITOR OF A STATE
- 170 SPECIAL ASSISTANTS TO THE SECRETARIES OF THE ARMY, NAVY AND AIR FORCE
- 171 LIEUTENANT GENERALS AND VICE ADMIRALS
- 172 RETIRED LIEUTENANT GENERALS AND VICE ADMIRALS
- 173 PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE OF A STATE
- 174 STATE SENATORS (IN THEIR OWN STATE)
- 175 MEMBERS, DEFENSE SCIENCE BOARD
- 176 CHAIRMAN, AMERICAN RED CROSS
- 177 BISHOPS OF WASHINGTON
- 178 PRINCIPAL DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARIES AND PRINCIPAL DEPUTY GENERAL COUNSELS OF THE ARMY, NAVY AND AIR FORCE
- 179 PERMANENT OBSERVERS TO THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES
- 180 FORMER U.S. AMBASSADORS
- 181 CIVILIAN AIDES TO THE SECRETARY OF THE ARMY
- 182 MAYORS OF CITIES (IN OWN CITY) (SEE #112) (POPULATIONS OF LESS THAN ONE MILLION)
- 183 SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, DELEGATES OR ASSEMBLY OF A STATE
- 184 TREASURER OF THE U.S.
- 185 DIRECTOR OF THE MINT
- 186 CHAIRMAN, FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
- 187 CHAIRMAN, UNITED SERVICES ORGANIZATION, INC.
- 188 DIRECTOR, NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF STANDARDS AND TECHNOLOGY
- 189 LIBRARIAN OF CONGRESS
- 190 VICE CHAIRMAN AND BOARD OF GOVERNORS, FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM
- 191 STATE REPRESENTATIVE, ASSEMBLYMAN, OR DELEGATE
- 192 CHAIRMAN, D.C. COUNCIL
- 193 COUNTY JUDGES, DISTRICT COURT JUDGE (COUNTY)
- 194 DEPUTY CHIEF OF PROTOCOL, DEPT OF STATE

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- 195 SPECIAL ASSISTANTS TO THE PRESIDENT
- 196 COMMISSIONER, U.S. CUSTOMS SERVICE
- 197 COMMISSIONER, INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE
- 198 DEPUTY ASST SECRETARIES OF DEFENSE; (SEE NOTE 3) DEPUTY GENERAL COUNSELS (DOD); ASSISTANT IG (DOD); DEPUTY COMPTROLLERS (DOD); SECDEF REPS TO INTERNATIONAL NEGOTIATIONS
- 199 DEPUTY UNDERSECRETARIES OF THE ARMY, NAVY, AND AIR FORCE; ARMY AUDITOR GENERAL (BY DATE OF APPOINTMENT)
- 200 DEPUTY DEFENSE ADVISOR, U.S. MISSION NATO
- 201 MEMBERS, SECRETARY OF DEFENSE BOARDS (DEFENSE POLICY ADVISORY COMMITTEE; DEFENSE SCIENCE BOARD; AND RESERVE FORCES POLICY BOARD)
- 202 COUNSELORS OF EMBASSIES
- 203 CONSULS GENERAL OF FOREIGN POWERS (LEGATIONS)
- 204 SES MEMBERS (PC 4)
- 205 CHAIRMAN, BOARD OF CONTRACT APPEALS (CA-1)

VIP 5 (TWO-STAR EQUIVALENT) Code:

- 206 MAJOR GENERALS AND REAR ADMIRALS (UPPER HALF)
- 207 RETIRED MAJOR GENERALS/REAR ADMIRALS (UPPER HALF)
- 208 SURGEON GENERAL; DEPUTY SURGEON GENERAL OF THE U.S.
- 209 DIRECTOR, FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY
- 210 DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARIES AND DEPUTY GENERAL COUNSELS OF THE ARMY, NAVY AND AIR FORCE (BY DATE OF APPOINTMENT)
- 211 CITY MANAGERS
- 212 OSD HISTORIAN
- 213 STATE CHAIR, NATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR EMPLOYER SUPPORT OF THE NATIONAL GUARD AND RESERVE
- 214 UNITED STATES ATTORNEYS
- 215 DISTRICT ATTORNEYS
- 216 COUNTY SHERIFFS
- 217 BOARD PRESIDENT AND COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
- 218 SES MEMBERS (PC 5)
- 219 VICE CHARIMAN, BOARD OF CONTRACT APPEALS (CA-2)
- 220 CONGRESSIONAL STAFFERS
- 221 USAR AMBASSADORS

VIP 6 (ONE-STAR EQUIVALENT) Code:

- 222 BRIGADIER GENERALS AND REAR ADMIRALS (LOWER HALF)
- 223 RETIRED BG'S AND REAR ADMIRALS (LOWER HALF)
- 224 COUNTY CLERKS
- 225 CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS
- 226 ASSISTANT SURGEON GENERAL (PUBLIC HEALTH SVC)
- 227 U.S. CONSULS GENERAL
- 228 ASSISTANT CHIEFS OF PROTOCOL, DEPT OF STATE
- 229 SECRETARY OF THE SENATE
- 230 DOORKEEPER OF THE HOUSE
- 231 CHAPLAIN OF THE SENATE
- 232 INDORSING AGENTS FOR MILITARY CHAPLAINS
- 233 ASSISTANT DEPUTY UNDER SECRETARIES OF DEFENSE AND PRINCIPAL DIRECTORS
- 234 CITY ATTORNEYS
- 235 SES MEMBERS (PC 6)
- 236 SCIENTIFIC AND PROFESSIONAL (SP); SENIOR LEVEL (SL) (NOTE 6) MEMBERS, BOARD OF CONTRACT APPEALS (CA-3); ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGES (AL)

VIP 7 Code:

- 237 COLONELS; CAPTAINS (USN/USCG); GS-15; U.S.CONSULS, MEDICAL DIRECTOR (PUBLIC HEALTH SVC)
- 238 JUSTICES OF THE PEACE
- 239 CITY CLERKS

VIP 8 (NOT VIP-RANKED) Code:

- 240 GS-14
- 241 LIEUTENANT COLONELS; COMMANDERS; GS-13
- 242 MAJORS; LIEUTENANT COMMANDERS; GS-12
- 243 GS-11
- 244 CAPTAINS; LIEUTENANTS (USN/USCG); GS-10; U.S. VICE-CONSULS
- 245 FIRST LIEUTENANTS, LIEUTENANTS JUNIOR GRADE; GS-9
- 246 GS-8
- 247 SECOND LIEUTENANTS; ENSIGNS; GS-7
- 248 WARRANT OFFICERS (BY GRADE)
- 249 COMMAND SERGEANTS MAJOR; SERGEANTS MAJOR; MASTER CHIEF PETTY OFFICERS; CHIEF MASTER SERGEANTS;
MASTER GUNNERY SERGEANTS
- 250 OTHER NON-COMMISSIONED OFFICERS, CIVILIANS BY RANK

NOTES:

1. Within a group listed on a line under a code, precedence for Senate confirmed positions is established by date of appointment.
2. **Combatant Commanders/Retired Combatant Commanders-** At Multi- or Joint-Service events ONLY, order is by date of appointment; for Commanders who previously held a confirmed position (i.e. CJCS, VCJCS, Service Chief, or previous Combatant Command), use the initial date of appointment to that position. At Army-exclusive events, Army Combatant Commanders are ranked by date of rank with other Army 4-Stars.
3. For non-statutory positions within a group, precedence is by date of assignment to the position.
4. Precedence for Defense Agency Directors is determined by the establishment date of the organization.
5. **The Director of the Army Staff, Sergeant Major of the Army, and other service equivalents:** Within the Army, the DAS and SMA are accorded special status. In the NCR, the DAS and SMA have precedence over all other LTGs, and outside the NCR, the DAS is ranked with LTGs, while the SMA may be positioned after the senior general officer present. Former-Service Senior Enlisted Advisors are ranked immediately following the currently serving Service Senior Enlisted Advisors at Army-exclusive events ONLY. Former Service Senior Enlisted Advisors should be placed in front of other retired members of the same grade (E-9) at Multi- or Joint-Service events.
6. **Assistant Secretaries of the Army** are ranked above **4-Star General Officers** for Army-exclusive functions ONLY. At Multi- or Joint-Service events, 4-Star Flag Officers precede Assistant Service Secretaries as reflected in the current order of precedence established by the President and used by the State Department and OSD for protocol purposes.
7. **SES** precedence is established by the position held. SES pay does not affect precedence. For those members not in positions identified in the precedence list, contact the Army Protocol Office, DSN 227-0692 or the SES Office at DSN 227-3549. For non-Army SES members, contact the member's agency/office for precedence.
8. **FORMER and RETIRED** officials are normally placed with, BUT after, the actively serving officials of the same position, UNLESS their precedence is separately listed on the Precedence List. For example, Presidents of the United States and Retired Chief Justices of the Supreme Court are listed separately. The accepted way to rank several of these former officials is by most recent. This means that each official is placed ahead of his or her predecessor. There may be reason to do it the other way with the "oldest" outranking the "youngest,"

but we follow the norm set by the State Department for handling Former Presidents. DoD Regulation 4515.13R, para. 2-4W, defines “retired military” as holding a DD Form 2 (blue or gray) and eligible for retired or retainer pay.

9. **STATE and LOCAL** officials are difficult to rank. There are no fixed rules, but McCaffree and Innis, in their book *Protocol*, state that in “planning a seating arrangement [you] should consider the purpose of the function, the level of all guests, and any political significance.” Simply try to apply the basic rules of precedence demonstrated in the preceding list and notes, and be consistent.
10. **ORDER OF PRECEDENCE – ARMED FORCES.** (Title 10, United States Code 113b; DoD Directive 1005.8 dated 31 Oct 77 and AR 600-25, when in formation and for flags displayed together)

Cadets, US Military Academy
Midshipman, US Naval Academy
Cadets, US Air Force Academy
Midshipman, US Merchant Marine Academy
United States Army
United States Marine Corps
United States Navy
United States Air Force
United States Coast Guard
Army National Guard of the United States
Army Reserve
Marine Corps Reserve
Naval Reserve
Air National Guard of the United States
Air Force Reserve
Coast Guard Reserve
Other training organizations of the Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force, and Coast Guard in that order.

Provided that during any period when the United States Coast Guard shall operate as part of the Navy; the Cadets, United States Coast Guard Academy, the United States Coast Guard and the Coast Guard Reserve shall take precedence after the Midshipmen, United States Naval Academy; the United States Navy; and Naval Reserve.

SOURCES for the Precedence List. This precedence list is based on the previous edition dated June 1996; The Department of Defense Table of Precedence dated 1 APR 94; Protocol: *The Complete Handbook of Diplomatic, Official, and Social Usage*, Revised Edition 1985, by Mary Jane McCaffree and Pauline Innis; and *Service Etiquette*, Fourth Edition 1988 by Oretta D. Swartz. Precedence Lists are inherently “unofficial” and subject to change.